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INFORMATION REPORT

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COUNTRY

East Germany

SUBJECT

Proposed East German Nuclear Research Station
at Miersdorf near Leuthen

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1. A new institute is under construction on the premises of the former German Reichspost Research Institute in Piersdorf (N53/V03) near Neuthen station in East Germany. A commission called the Kuratorium Piersdorf has been given the responsibility of establishing, organizing and equipping the institute. The Kuratorium is considered to be the predecessor of a future East German nuclear commission. Following are some of the members of the commission:

Professor Walther Friedrich - President of the East German Academy of Sciences and head of the Academy Institute for Medicine and Biology, Berlin-Buch, - Lindenberger Weg 70.
Professor Friedrich Loeblisch - Head of the Academy Institute for Research on the Physics of Solids, Berlin-Buch.
Dr. Georg Otterbein - Refractor for technical science : the Academy of Sciences.
Professor Robert Rompe - Head of the Academy Institute for Radiation Sources, Berlin.
Engineer (fnu) Starn - Chief construction engineer at the Thilo firm, Dresden (formerly Koca and Stenzel) .

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summer 1952. The completed generator was too high for the hall, so the construction engineers decided to enlarge the housing by digging four meters below the foundation. It was then discovered, however, that the foundation is about three meters above the level of the Zeuthen lake and that water was seeping into the building. In order to overcome this difficulty, plans have now been made to construct a large concrete basin in which the generator is to be placed.

3. The construction work now in progress is under the direction of Georg Otterbein. Otterbein is not a member of the Institute. As of early November 1952 only one scientist and a few young technicians were actually affiliated with the Institute. The scientist is (fnu) von der Schulenburg, who recently came to East Germany from the Institute for Electro-Medicine and Electron Technology in Munich. Schulenburg has been chosen head of the Electronics Department of the new Institute, but he will not be engaged in the Institute's nuclear research projects. Ten of the laboratories are completed, and they are currently serving as temporary billets for von der Schulenburg, one chemist, and some administrative personnel. The post of director of the new Institute has not yet been filled. The task of establishing the Institute is hampered not only by certain technical difficulties but also by a lack of qualified research personnel.
4. The Kuratorium Miersdorf plans to have a betatron constructed by the TRARO firm installed in the new Institute. TRARO has agreed to include the betatron in its development program.
5. The Kuratorium has applied to the Russian authorities for permission to build the Miersdorf Institute and to devote it to nuclear research, mainly for medical purposes. As of early November 1952 the Russians has not yet made any reply to the request. The fact that no Russian answer has as yet been forthcoming is still another delaying factor in the completion of the Institute.

Comment: Koch und Sterzel A.G. Zwickaner Str. 40/42, Dresden.

Comment: Both Ardenne and the Reichspost cyclotron were transferred to Russia in 1945.

Comment: Dr. Siegfried Fluegge, Wilhelm Rorer-Str. 3a, Marburg.

Comment: Attempts to recruit Professor Wolfgang Riezler for the post were unsuccessful.

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